

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am signing Senate Bill 3 to establish a Safety Enhancement-Double Fine Zone on a segment of Vasco Road in Contra Costa County. The tragic loss of four people in a traffic accident on that road highlights the importance of having a comprehensive approach to safety improvement on California roads. Such an approach must incorporate enforcement, education, and roadway improvements.

Establishing double-fine zones is of little value unless we have the ability to enforce those zones. To that end, the budget I signed in June will add over 200 new positions to the California Highway Patrol. It is also vital that we fund improvements to highways and roads that, like Vasco Road, handle more traffic than they were designed to accommodate. To improve our roads, the 2006-07 Budget allocates \$13 billion for transportation, a \$2.7 billion increase from last year. This funding is in addition to the \$20 billion transportation bond that is part of my Strategic Growth Plan.

Finally, we must continue to educate drivers about those areas of the road most prone to accidents. Although SB 3 will provide education for motorists on Vasco Road, we need a statewide policy in this area. So, I am again asking the Legislature to provide Caltrans the authority to work directly with local governments to determine where such zones are best located.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger